

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 MCE-00 AID-05
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /078 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:DNJOHNSON:LCB
APPROVED BY EUR:WHLUERS
EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT
EUR/EE:HGILMORE
H:TWESTO4 (INFO)
L:JCROOK
AF:PGARLAND
L:JMICHEL (INFO)

-----097162 130039Z /21

O R 122342Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

S E C R E T STATE 231270

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YO, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL QUERY ON YUGOSLAV TANK TRANSFER

REF: STATE 227265

1. DURING DAS LUERS' TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HAMILTON
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HIRC ON SEPTEMBER 7, CONGRESSMAN
FINDLEY ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE YUGOSLAV
TRANSFER OF US-ORIGIN TANKS TO ETHIOPIA. FINDLEY'S
QUESTIONS, IN ESSENCE, COVERED FIVE POINTS (THE VERBATIM
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RECORD OF THE EXCHANGES ON THIS SUBJECT WILL BE TRANSMITTED
TO THE EMBASSY WHEN IT IS RECEIVED FROM THE COMMITTEE).

-- DID THE YUGOSLAVS TRANSFER US-ORIGIN TANKS TO ETHIOPIA
LAST YEAR?

-- DID THEY VIOLATE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS IN DOING SO?

-- HOW DID THE USG RESPOND TO THIS OBVIOUS VIOLATION?

-- WAS THE CONGRESS NOTIFIED?

-- WHY WAS THE NOTIFICATION CLASSIFIED, AND CAN IT BE
DECLASSIFIED NOW IN WHOLE OR IN PART?

2. LUERS RESPONDED THAT SUCH AN INCIDENT DID OCCUR, THAT
WE EXPRESSED OUR EXTREME DISPLEASURE TO THE YUGOSLAVS
AND THAT THEY CLAIMED IT WAS INADVERTENT. THE TANKS WERE
OLD, HAVING BEEN PROVIDED IN THE 50'S. WE INITIATED
BILATERAL TALKS ON THE SUBJECT AT ONCE TO EMPHASIZE OUR
DISPLEASURE AND TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF DISPOSITION
OF US-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT. WE ARE SATISFIED THAT SUCH AN
INCIDENT WILL NOT RECUR AND THAT THE MATTER IS CLOSED.
THE CONGRESS WAS NOTIFIED BY LETTER WHICH WAS CLASSIFIED
BECAUSE THE SUBJECT WAS UNDER CONTINUING DISCUSSION. WE
WILL EXAMINE THE CONTENTS TO SEE WHETHER ALL OR PART OF
THE LETTER MAY BE DECLASSIFIED.

3. LUERS TOLD AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI ON SEPTEMBER 8 THAT
THE QUESTION HAD COME UP. BELOVSKI RESPONDED THAT THE
INCIDENT HAD BEEN A STUPID MISTAKE AND THAT THE LESS SAID
ABOUT IT PUBLICLY THE BETTER. LUERS SAID THAT WE WERE
SENSITIVE TO YUGOSLAV CONCERNS AND WOULD RESPOND ACCORDING-
LY.

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4. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO REVIEW THE TEXT OF THE
LETTER(S) DATED AUGUST 5, 1977 TO SPEAKER O'NEILL AND
SENATOR SPARKMAN TO SEE WHICH PORTIONS SHOULD BE DELEGATED
ENTIRELY OR SUBSTANTIALLY REVISED. IN OUR VIEW, MOST
OF THE LETTER CAN BE RELEASED WITH REVISIONS OF PARAGRAPHS
FOUR AND FIVE TO REMOVE REFERENCES TO INDIVIDUALS AND
TO SOME OF THE SPECIFIC COMMENTS. WE BELIEVE THAT ALL OR
VIRTUALLY ALL OF PARAGRAPHS ONE, TWO, THREE AND SIX CAN
BE RELEASED. WE ARE ALSO COORDINATING WITH H AND L ON
THE RELEASE. PLEASE RESPOND ASAP SINCE FINDLEY'S OFFICE
IS PRESSING FOR A REPLY. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES), MILITARY SALES, ALLEGATIONS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, END USE CHECKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE231270
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DNJOHNSON:LCB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780371-0622
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780975/aaaacjvw.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 19e7df51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 227265
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1461978
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL QUERY ON YUGOSLAV TANK TRANSFER
TAGS: MASS, YO, US, ET
To: BELGRADE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/19e7df51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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